THE WORLD'S MOST WAY PAST COOL
Archie
65TH ANNIVERSARY
SONIC
THE HED G
APPROVED BY THE COMICS CODE AUTHORITY
175
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SEGA
THE UNTHINKABLE HAPPENS

EGGMAN EMPIRE

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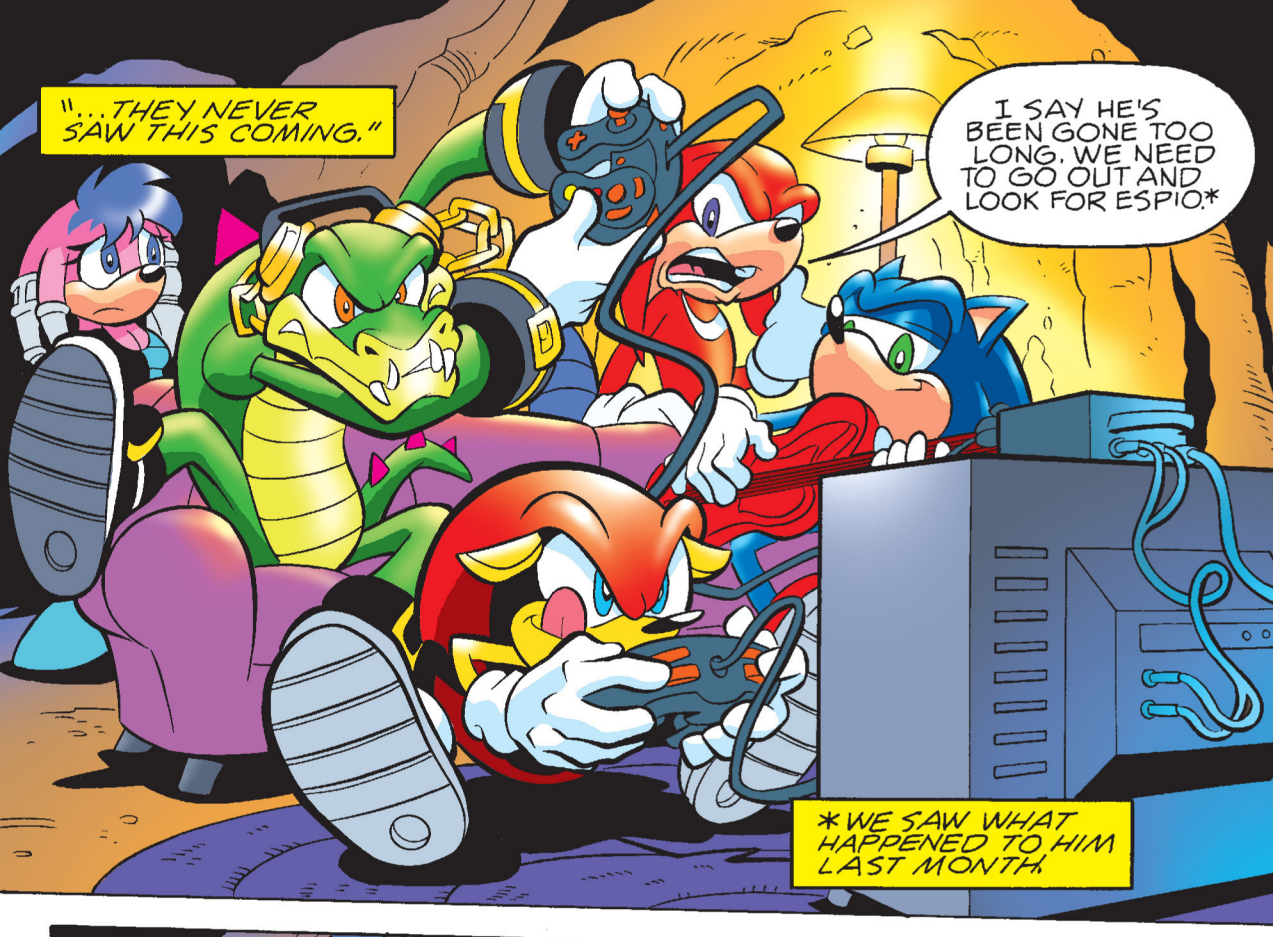
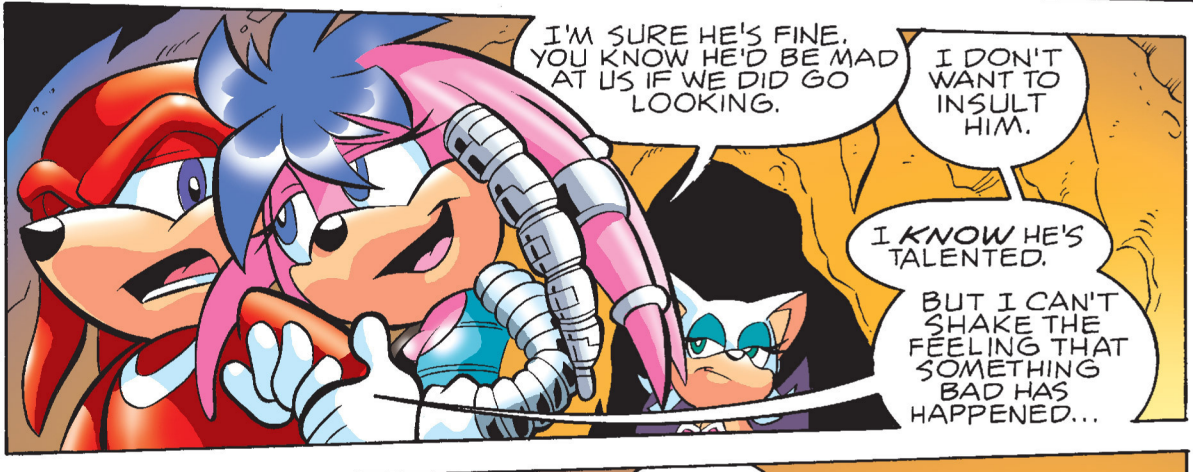
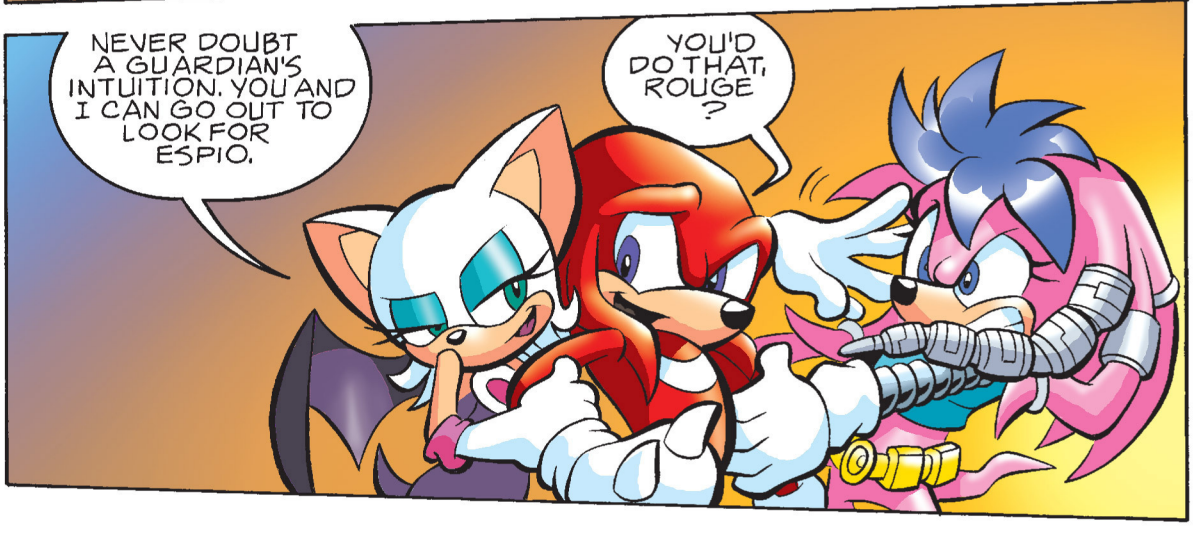
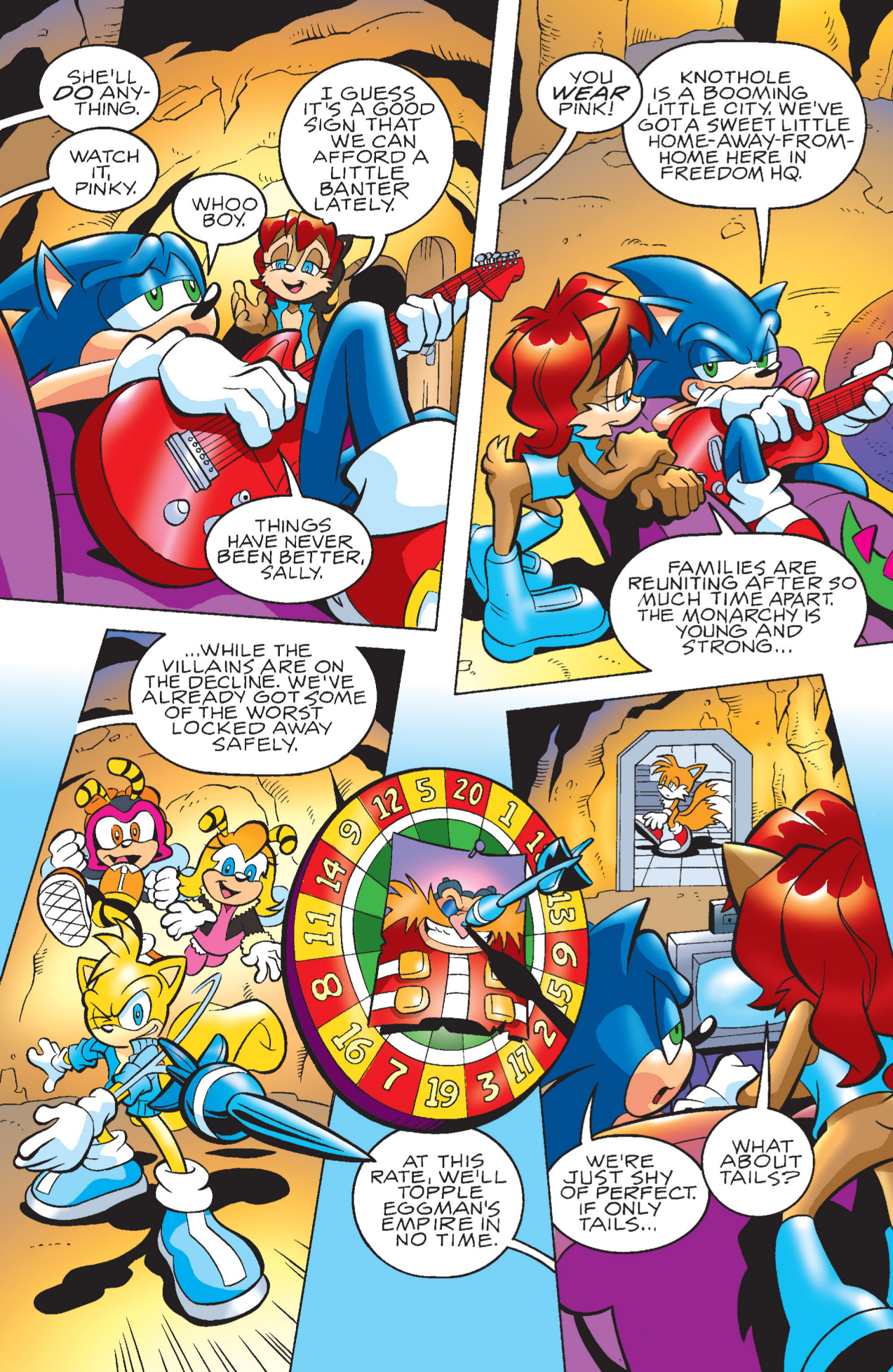
SPECIAL THANKS TO ROBERT LEFFLER AND DYNA LOPEZ AT SEGA LICENSING


"...THEY NEVER SAW THIS COMING."
I SAY HE'S BEEN GONE TOO LONG. WE NEED TO GO OUT AND LOOK FOR ESPIO.*
*WE SAW WHAT HAPPENED TO HIM LAST MONTH.


I'M SURE HE'S FINE. YOU KNOW HE'D BE MAD AT US IF WE DID GO LOOKING.
I DON'T WANT TO INSULT HIM.
I KNOW HE'S TALENTED.
BUT I CAN'T SHAKE THE FEELING THAT SOMETHING BAD HAS HAPPENED...


NEVER DOUBT A GUARDIAN'S INTUITION. YOU AND I CAN GO OUT TO LOOK FOR ESPIO.
YOU'D DO THAT, ROUGE?

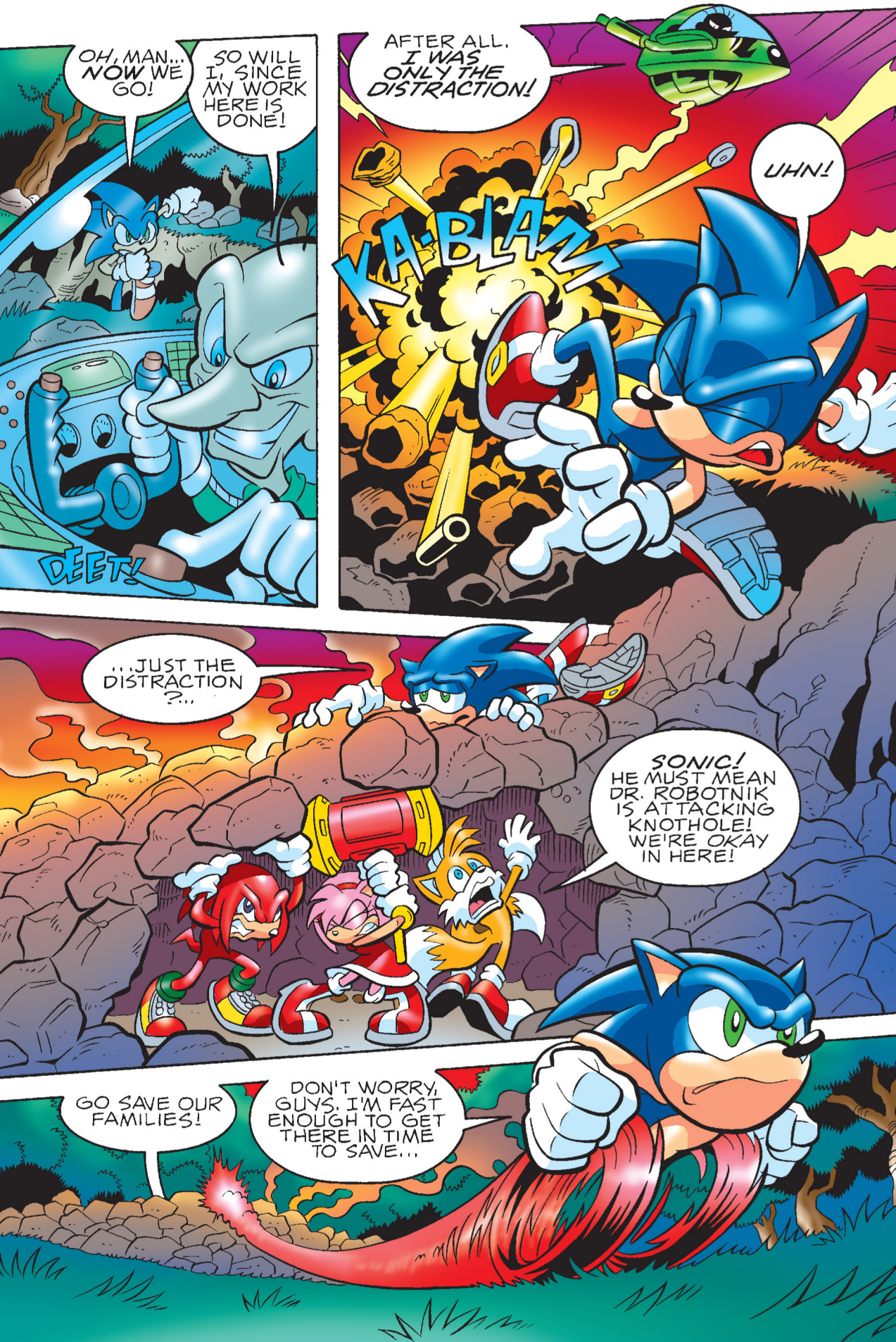

SHE'LL DO ANY-THING.
WATCH IT, PINKY.
WHOO BOY.
I GUESS IT'S A GOOD SIGN THAT WE CAN AFFORD A LITTLE BANTER LATELY.
THINGS HAVE NEVER BEEN BETTER, SALLY.
YOU WEAR PINK!
KNOTHOLE IS A BOOMING LITTLE CITY. WE'VE GOT A SWEET LITTLE HOME-AWAY-FROM-HOME HERE IN FREEDOM HQ.
FAMILIES ARE REUNITING AFTER SO MUCH TIME APART. THE MONARCHY IS YOUNG AND STRONG...
...WHILE THE VILLAINS ARE ON THE DECLINE. WE'VE ALREADY GOT SOME OF THE WORST LOCKED AWAY SAFELY.
AT THIS RATE, WE'LL TOPPLE EGGMAN'S EMPIRE IN NO TIME.
WE'RE JUST SHY OF PERFECT. IF ONLY TAILS...
WHAT ABOUT TAILS?

I GET THE FEELING HE'S KEEPING SOMETHING FROM ME, THAT'S ALL.
ARE YOU ALL RIGHT, NICOLE? YOU'RE RUNNING REALLY SLOW.
I BELIEVE I'M FINE. I WILL RUN A DIAGNOSTIC NOW.
GOOD IDEA. WE DON'T KNOW IF SNIVELY DID ANYTHING TO SABOTAGE US BEFORE HE LEFT.* THANKS, ROTOR.
SURE THING, TAILS. SPEAKING OF RUNNING DIAGNOSTICS ON YOURSELF...
*BACK IN S# 162.
IT'S BEEN A ROUGH FEW WEEKS FOR YOU, BUDDY. FIONA LEAVING** ...TOMMY...Y'KNOW.*** AND THEN YOU AND SONIC HAVE BEEN KIND OF AT ODDS...
**HEARTS WERE BROKEN IN S# 172.
***THE TRAGEDY HAPPENED IN S# 169.
I'LL ADMIT IT'S BEEN HARD TO TAKE. IT'S BEEN HARD TO PROVE MYSELF AS A FREEDOM FIGHTER. AND HARDER STILL TO FAIL TO PROTECT THEM...
TAILS, YOU DIDN'T FAIL...
AND NEVERMIND SONIC. I FINALLY HAVE MY FAMILY BACK, AND I STILL HAVE ALL MY FRIENDS NEAR ME! I'LL BE FINE!
IF YOU SAY SO!
DIAGNOSTIC COMPLETE. SYSTEM COMPROMISED! WE'RE UNDER ATTACK!

RUMBLE!
KNOCK-KNOCK, MY FRIENDS.
AUGH!
ROTOR!
JUST LIKE FISH IN A BARREL!
KZZZT!

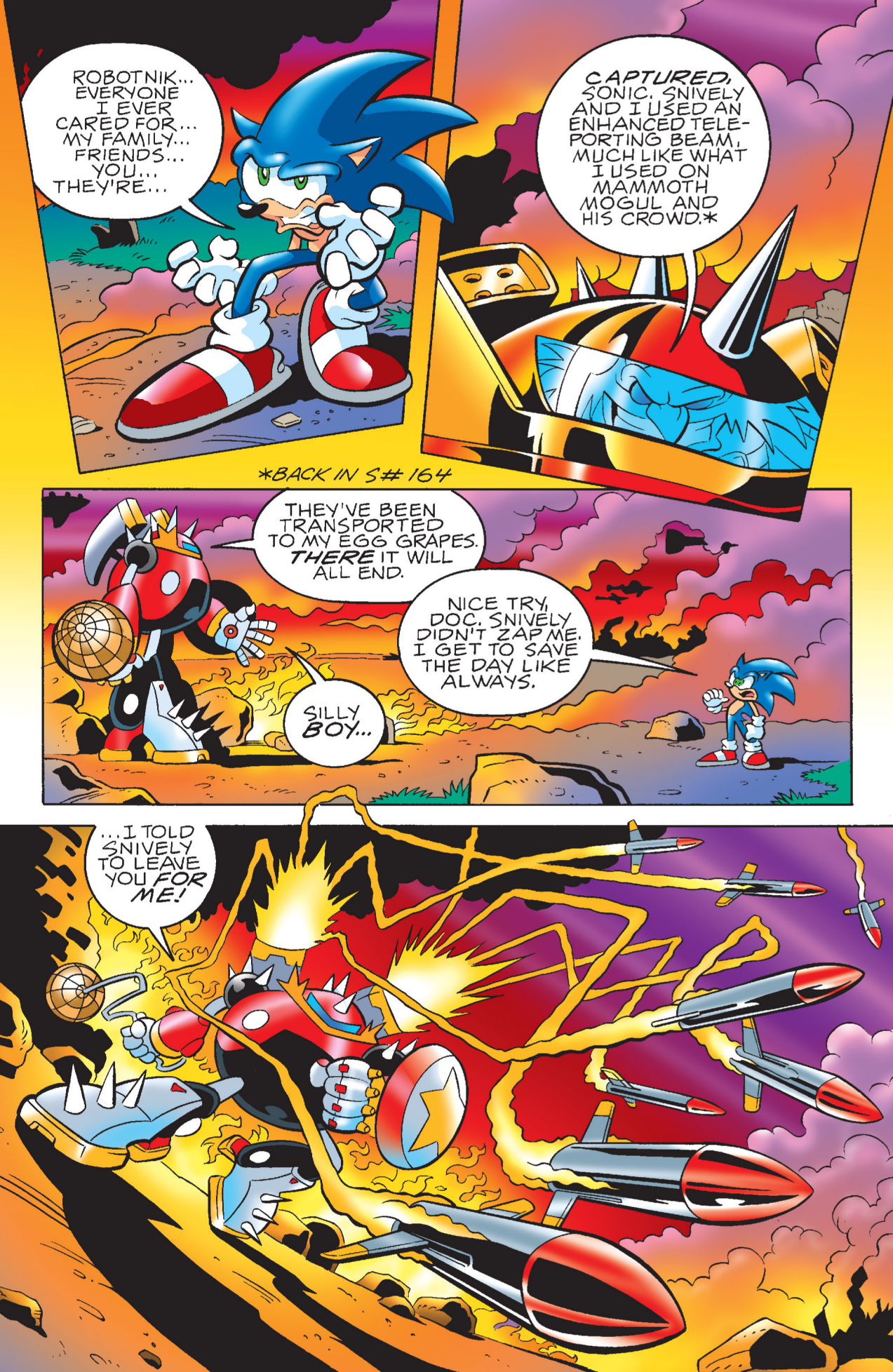
SNIVELY JUST VAPORIZED ...!
BUNNIE! GET HIM OUTSIDE AND GIVE US SOME ROOM!
AH'M ON IT, SALLY-GIRL!
CRUNCH!
OH, I THINK I CAN HANDLE YOU!
SONIC, I WANT YOU TO--
LAISSE'-ELLE, MONSTRE!
MIGHTY, HELP ME!
KZZT!
I SUPPOSE I SHOULDN'T SEPARATE THE NEWLYWEDS. BRACE YOURSELF, BUNNIE. THIS BURNS--
--A LOT?!
KZZT!
RARGH!

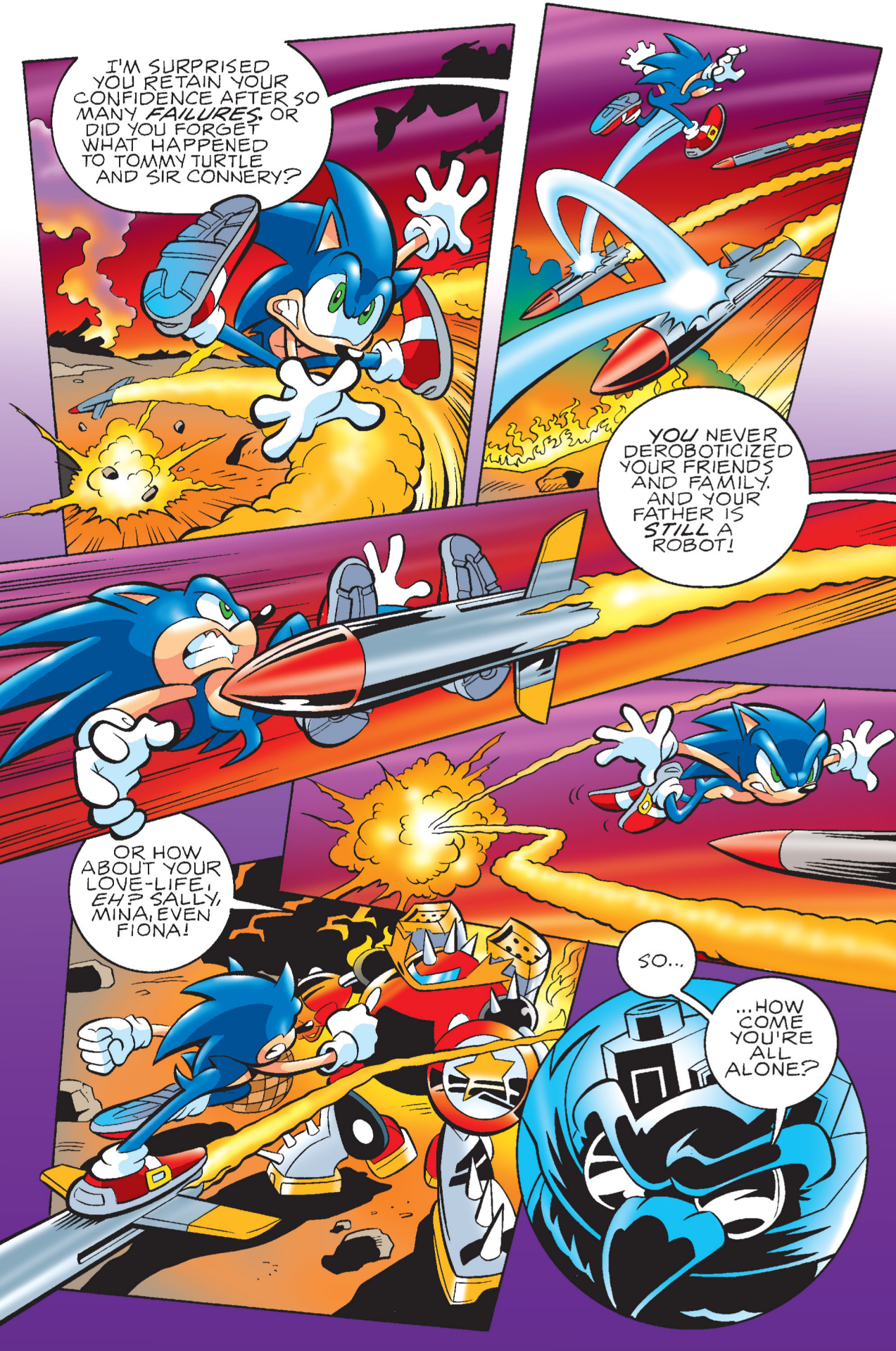
WHAT'S GOING ON?!
ROTOR! AND SALLY! HE BLASTED--!
LET ME AT HIM!
EVERY-ONE STAY BACK!
MIGHTY'S LOST IT! AND YOU DO NOT WANT TO BE IN THE MIDDLE OF THAT!
HOW COULD YOU DO THAT TO RAY?!
EEP!
SCREECH!
HE COULD NEVER HURT YOU! I TOLD HIM I'D KEEP HIM SAFE! AND YOU GO AND VAPORIZE HIM!
WHAM
KZZT!
FINE! I DON'T WANT YOU TO FEEL LEFT OUT!


OH, MAN... NOW WE GO!
SO WILL I, SINCE MY WORK HERE IS DONE!
DEET!
AFTER ALL, I WAS ONLY THE DISTRACTION!
K-BLAM!
UHN!
...JUST THE DISTRACTION?...
SONIC! HE MUST MEAN DR. ROBOTNIK IS ATTACKING KNOTHOLE! WE'RE OKAY IN HERE!
GO SAVE OUR FAMILIES!
DON'T WORRY, GUYS. I'M FAST ENOUGH TO GET THERE IN TIME TO SAVE...

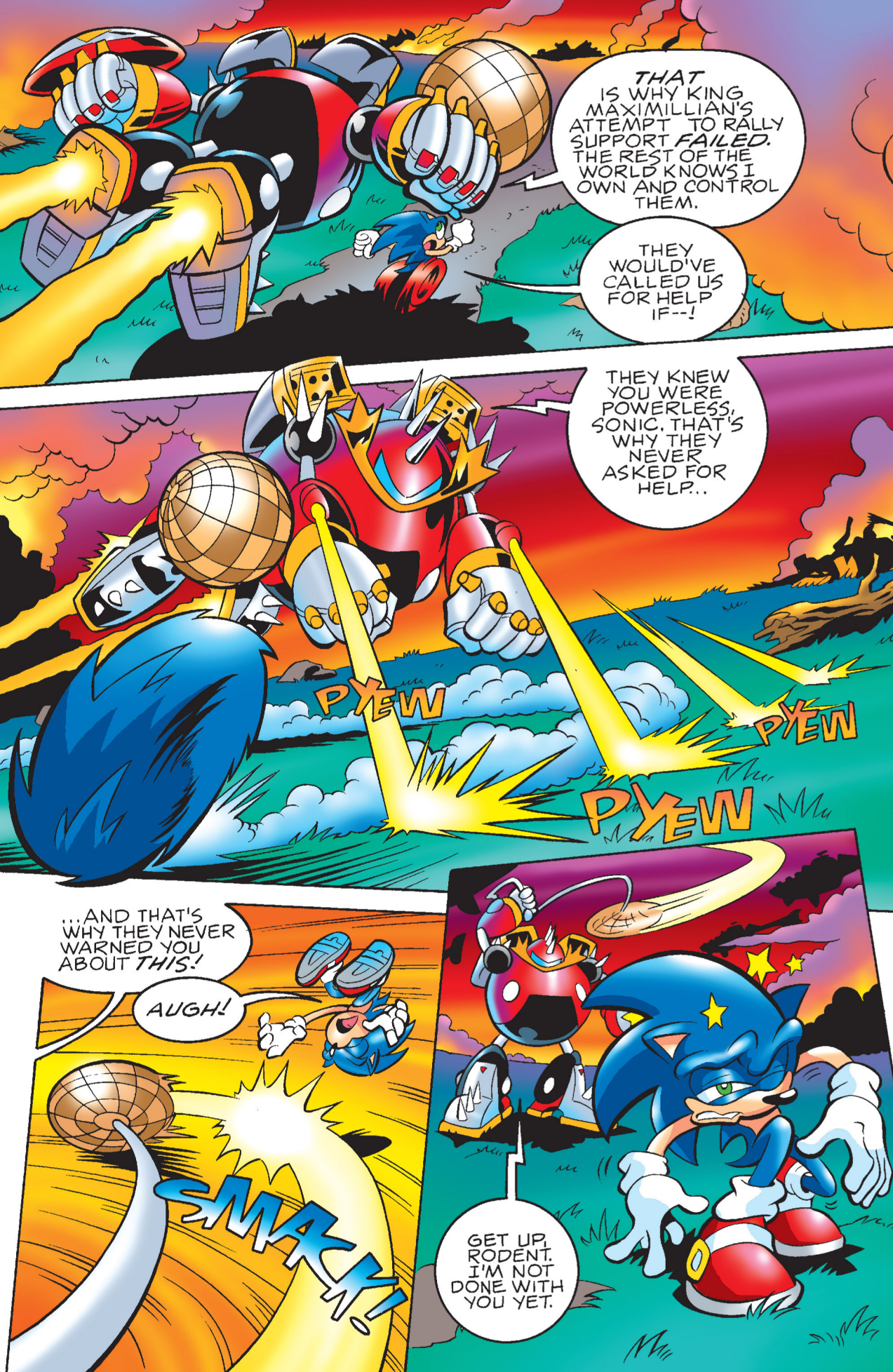
...EVERYONE...
THE LAKE OF RINGS...
...UNCLE CHUCK'S DINER...
UNCLE CHUCK DINER
MY NEIGHBOR-HOOD... MY HOUSE... IT'S ALL GONE!
I BET ELIAS GOT EVERYONE INTO THE CASTLE! THEY'LL BE SAFE THERE! I CAN GET THERE AND HELP HOLD OFF THE INVASION!

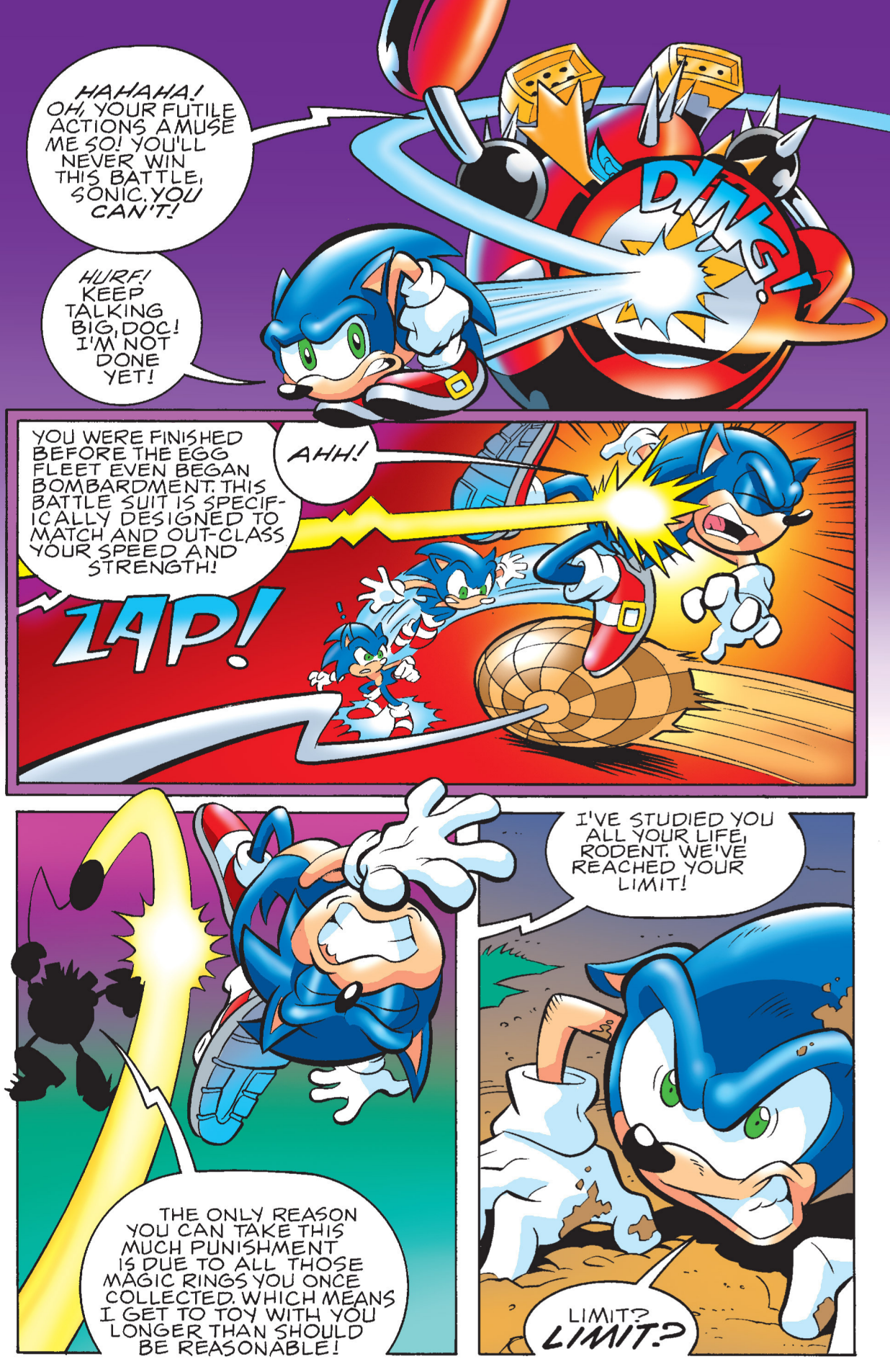
NO!
KRAKOOM!
IT'S ABOUT TIME YOU SHOWED UP, RODENT.


ROBOTNIK... EVERYONE I EVER CARED FOR... MY FAMILY... FRIENDS... YOU... THEY'RE...
CAPTURED, SONIC. SNIVELY AND I USED AN ENHANCED TELE-PORTING BEAM, MUCH LIKE WHAT I USED ON MAMMOTH MOGUL AND HIS CROWD.*
*BACK IN S# 164
THEY'VE BEEN TRANSPORTED TO MY EGG GRAPES. THERE IT WILL ALL END.
NICE TRY, DOC. SNIVELY DIDN'T ZAP ME. I GET TO SAVE THE DAY LIKE ALWAYS.
SILLY BOY...
...I TOLD SNIVELY TO LEAVE YOU FOR ME!


I'M SURPRISED YOU RETAIN YOUR CONFIDENCE AFTER SO MANY *FAILURES*. OR DID YOU FORGET WHAT HAPPENED TO TOMMY TURTLE AND SIR CONNERY?
YOU NEVER DEROBOTICIZED YOUR FRIENDS AND FAMILY. AND YOUR FATHER IS *STILL* A ROBOT!
OR HOW ABOUT YOUR LOVE-LIFE, *EH?* SALLY, MINA, EVEN FIONA!
SO...
...HOW COME YOU'RE ALL ALONE?

SHUT UP!
THAT'S IT? THAT'S YOUR WITTY COMEBACK? PLEASE, SONIC, I WANT OUR LAST GAME TO HAVE SOME MERIT.
DING
DING
DING
OOF! THIS IS A GAME TO YOU?!
DING
YOU THOUGHT YOUR PITHY RESISTANCE ACTUALLY HAD SOME KIND OF TOE-HOLD AGAINST MY EMPIRE?
AHH! LIAR!
THE WORLD FELL TO ME SO QUICKLY, SO EASILY, THAT I WAS LEFT WITH NOTHING TO DO! I ALLOWED YOU FREEDOM FIGHTERS TO EXIST SO THAT I MIGHT ENTERTAIN MYSELF!
YOU'VE TRIED-- AND FAILED-- TO BEAT US IN THE PAST!
I WILL CONCEDE YOU ALL HAVE WON MY LITTLE WAR GAMES MORE TIMES THAN NOT. BUT SO WHAT? IS MOBIUS ANY MORE FREE NOW THAN IT WAS YEARS AGO?


THAT IS WHY KING MAXIMILLIAN'S ATTEMPT TO RALLY SUPPORT FAILED. THE REST OF THE WORLD KNOWS I OWN AND CONTROL THEM.
THEY WOULD'VE CALLED US FOR HELP IF--!
THEY KNEW YOU WERE POWERLESS, SONIC. THAT'S WHY THEY NEVER ASKED FOR HELP..
PYEW
PYEW
PYEW
...AND THAT'S WHY THEY NEVER WARNED YOU ABOUT THIS!
AUGH!
SMAK!
GET UP, RODENT. I'M NOT DONE WITH YOU YET.


HAHAHA! OH, YOUR FUTILE ACTIONS AMUSE ME SO! YOU'LL NEVER WIN THIS BATTLE, SONIC. YOU CAN'T!
HURF! KEEP TALKING BIG, DOC! I'M NOT DONE YET!
DINK!
YOU WERE FINISHED BEFORE THE EGG FLEET EVEN BEGAN BOMBARDMENT. THIS BATTLE SUIT IS SPECIFICALLY DESIGNED TO MATCH AND OUT-CLASS YOUR SPEED AND STRENGTH!
AHH!
ZAP!
I'VE STUDIED YOU ALL YOUR LIFE, RODENT. WE'VE REACHED YOUR LIMIT!
THE ONLY REASON YOU CAN TAKE THIS MUCH PUNISHMENT IS DUE TO ALL THOSE MAGIC RINGS YOU ONCE COLLECTED. WHICH MEANS I GET TO TOY WITH YOU LONGER THAN SHOULD BE REASONABLE!
LIMIT? LIMIT?

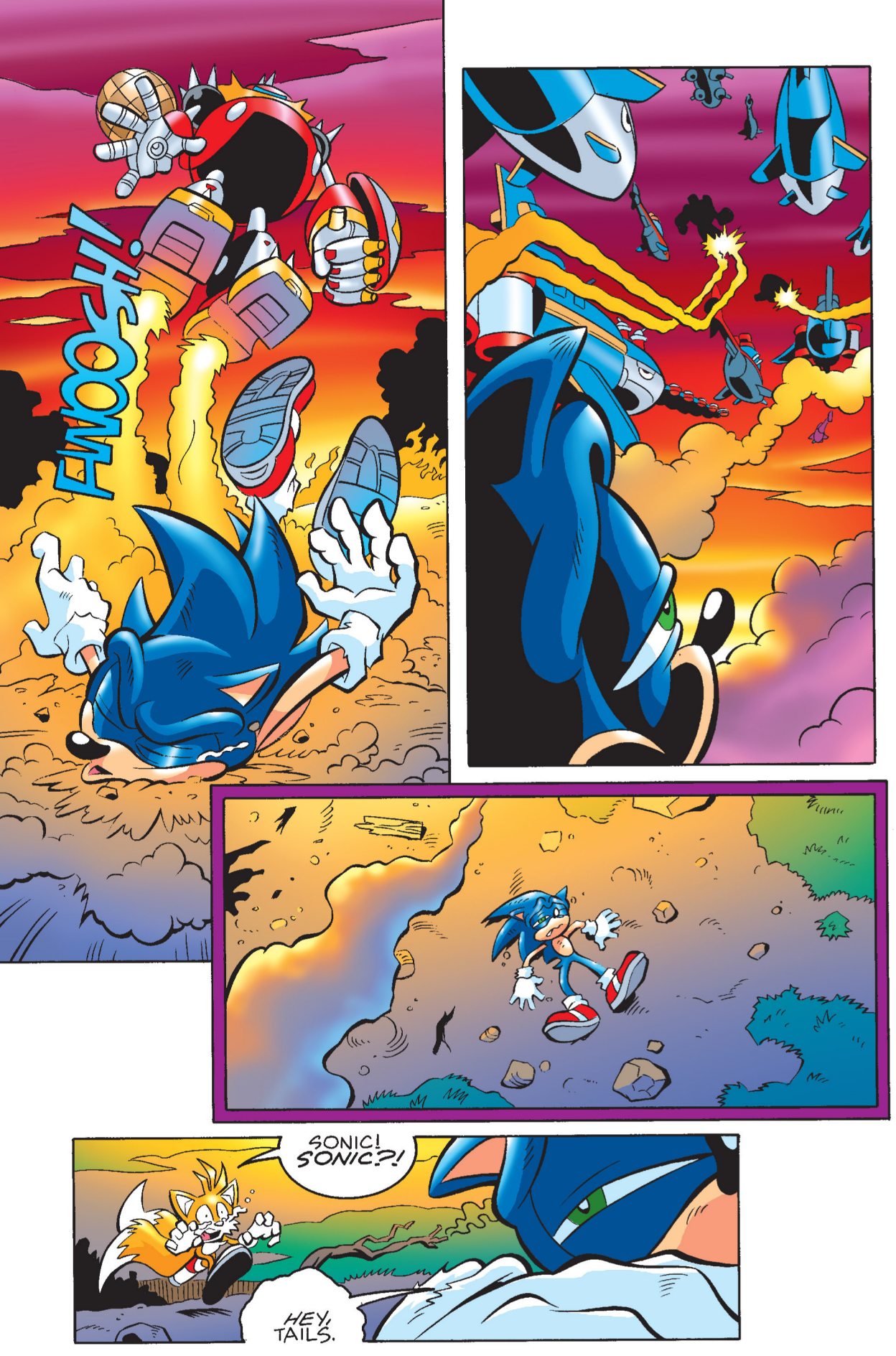
EGAD! SNIVELY! TRACK THE HEDGE-HOG VIA THE EGG SPY SATELLITES. WHERE DID HE GO?
WHOOSH
TRACKING NOW, SIR. HE'S... HE'S MOVING A LOT FASTER THAN YOU CALCULATED HE COULD...
NONSENSE! JUST GET ME HIS LOCATION!
H-HE...!
WHERE, SNIVELY? WHERE?!
HE'S ALREADY ON THE EAST COAST!
"LIMIT"?
I'VE GOT YOUR "LIMIT" RIGHT HERE!

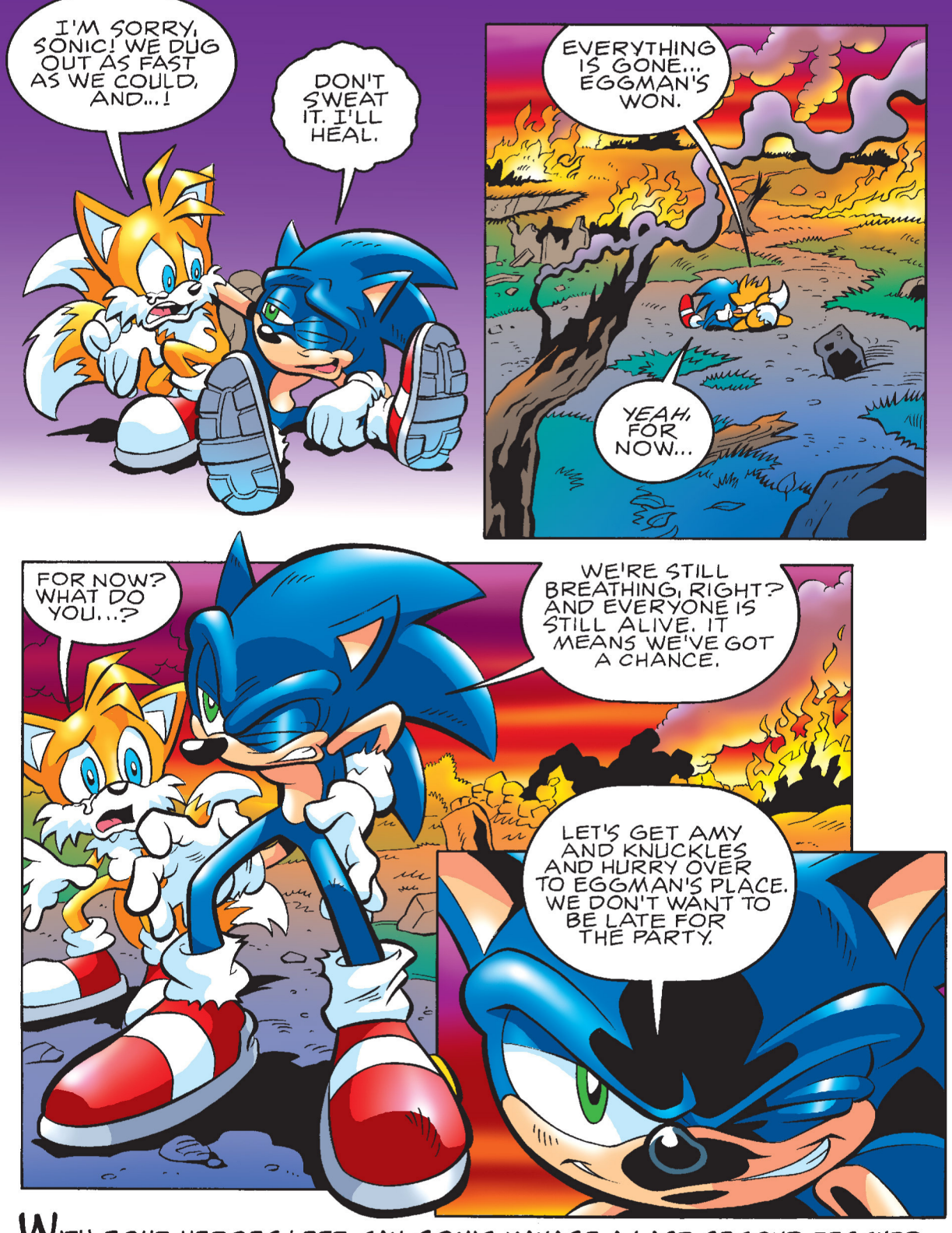
BWOOSH!
WATCH OUT, SIR!
BWOOSH!
OH, MY GEARS AND STARTERS...
ZEEEEE

BLAM!!
CRASH!
H-HA! H-HOW'S THAT FOR M-MY LIMIT, E-EGGMAN?
WHAM!
IT'S JUST FINE, SONIC.
ALTHOUGH I AM A LITTLE UPSET THAT YOU DENTED THE SHIELD.

LIKE I SAID, SONIC...
...YOU'RE OUT-MATCHED...OUT-CLASSED...
...YOU'RE NOT FAST ENOUGH...
...YOU'RE NOT STRONG ENOUGH...

AND YOU CERTAINLY AREN'T SMART ENOUGH TO DEFEAT ME.
I'M GOING BACK TO NEW MEGAOPOLIS NOW. ONCE I'VE FRESHENED UP, I'M GOING TO TURN ON THE EGG GRAPES. EVERYONE YOU'VE EVER KNOWN OR CARED FOR WILL BE TURNED INTO FUEL FOR MY CITY. AND YOU'LL BE LEFT HERE-- HELPLESS.
I'M NOT PLAYING WITH YOU, RODENT. RUN--RUN ALL OVER THE WORLD AND TRY TO START A NEW FREEDOM FIGHTER GROUP. YOU WILL FIND NO ONE. SO RUN--FOR THE REST OF YOUR LIFE--AND NEVER ESCAPE THE HUMILIATION OF TODAY.


FWOOSH!
SONIC! SONIC?!
HEY, TAILS.


I'M SORRY, SONIC! WE DUG OUT AS FAST AS WE COULD, AND...!
DON'T SWEAT IT. I'LL HEAL.
EVERYTHING IS GONE... EGGMAN'S WON.
YEAH, FOR NOW...
FOR NOW? WHAT DO YOU...?
WE'RE STILL BREATHING, RIGHT? AND EVERYONE IS STILL ALIVE. IT MEANS WE'VE GOT A CHANCE.
LET'S GET AMY AND KNUCKLES AND HURRY OVER TO EGGMAN'S PLACE. WE DON'T WANT TO BE LATE FOR THE PARTY.

WITH *FOUR HEROES* LEFT, CAN *SONIC* MANAGE A LAST-SECOND RESCUE? OR IS *DR. EGGMAN* RIGHT? IS IT REALLY *TOO LATE*? JOIN THE LAST-DITCH EFFORTS NEXT MONTH WHEN *SONIC* SEES IF HE CAN START *"CRACKING THE EMPIRE!"*

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